

ALL INDIA COMPETITION OF HAND-LOOMS.

The accompanying prospectus of the "All-India Competition of Hand-looms" to be held in Madras in February 1908, is published for general information :—

"All-India Competition of Hand-looms."

It is a well-known fact that next to agriculture, the most important industry in this country, is Hand-loom weaving. Various improvements in the existing looms have been suggested from time to time and improved fly-shuttle looms have been introduced; but as yet, the ordinary weavers have not evinced any great desire to adopt them. This is not to be wondered at, seeing that no systematic attempts have hitherto been made to demonstrate, by practical trials, extending over a sufficiently long period, the comparative merits of the fly-shuttle and the ordinary looms and the best methods of weaving. With a view to carry out such a trial, the Managing Committee of the National Fund and Industrial Association, Madras, have resolved to hold a weaving competition of Indian made hand-looms and also of such improved hand-looms as have recently been introduced into this country, the competition being continued for six days, during which the same workmen will be required to work for seven hours a day from 8 A.M. to 5-30 P.M., with an interval of an hour after 10 A.M. and of an hour and a half after 1 P.M.

The Government of Madras has been pleased to sanction a liberal contribution of Rs. 2,500 towards this undertaking, on condition that the National Fund and Industrial Association provides not less than one thousand rupees and undertakes to carry out the necessary arrangements. This the Association has readily agreed to do and the Competition will be held during the last week of February 1908.

The following is the programme of the Competition :—

Weaving Competitions.

A Weaving Competition will be held in Madras on the premises of the Madras School of Arts in February 1908, when the following prizes will be offered for hand-looms working under the conditions specified :—

1. The tests will commence on Monday the 24th of February at 8 A.M., and will be continued till Saturday evening at 5-30 P.M. The weavers will be required to work for seven hours each day, commencing work at 8 A.M., and with intervals of rest from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M., and from 1 P.M. to 2-30 P.M.

2. Intending competitors must make application for the sections and classes they wish to enter for on the form provided for the purpose, which will be supplied on application to the Hony. Secretaries of the "All India Competition of Hand-looms," Mahajana Sabha Hall, Mount Road, Madras.

Such applications must reach them before the 15th January. Every competitor will be required to fix up his own loom and, as far as possible, indigenous hand-looms will be located in a shed with an earthen floor to facilitate the erection of the frame work that may be necessary.

3. Each competitor will provide his own warp, complying with the conditions of the competition, and will be allowed to fix it in the loom beforehand, and to weave a length not exceeding two yards before the competition commences. At the end of each interval of work the length woven during that interval will be marked off by a thin band of red. Competitors must supply their own pirns and have a sufficient supply for the competition.

4. Competitors should come provided with warps sufficiently long to keep their loom employed during the whole week.

5. In awarding the prizes the Judges will allow marks :—

- (1) for the total length of cloth woven in the week;
- (2) for the uniformity of length of out-turn day by day;
- (3) for quality of weaving in which uniformity of picking and freedom from broken ends will be important factors;
- (4) for nearness to exact compliance with the specification of the cloth to be woven.

Special Prize.

A special prize of Rs. 500 will be placed at the disposal of the Judges to be awarded to the best loom entered for any of the competitions, provided that such loom is well suited to the requirements of native hand weavers and is capable of doing satisfactory work on both fine and coarse counts. The Judges will be required to satisfy themselves that the initial cost of the loom is reasonable, that it is not likely to get out of order, that it can be easily repaired, that with but slight modifications it is capable of being worked on both fine and coarse counts, that it requires no uncommon dexterity to obtain good results from it, and generally that its adoption by the weaving community would enable them to largely increase their out-put.

Should there be two looms of practically equal merit and the Judges deem that the adoption of either of them is likely to materially improve the welfare of the weaving community, two special prizes will be provided. It must be clearly understood that these prizes will only be awarded to looms which possess points of novelty.

Section 1, Native Hand-loom.

Prizes of Rs. 100, Rs. 75 and Rs. 50 will be awarded to looms which do the best work in the following classes.

1. Looms to weave cloth one yard wide with 20s for warp and weft with 48 threads per inch and weft 48 picks;
2. Looms to weave cloth from 45" to 54" wide with 60s for warp and weft, with 72 threads for inch and 72 picks for weft;
3. Looms to weave cloth from 45" to 54" wide using for warp and weft 100s with 80 threads per inch and 80 picks for weft;
4. Looms to weave Madras handkerchiefs with 40s both warp and weft. Warp with 72 threads and 72 picks for weft; standard width 1 yard;
5. Looms to weave fine handkerchiefs with 60s in the warp and 40s in the weft. Warp to be 80 threads per inch and weft 108 picks; standard width 1 yard.

Section II.—Improved Hand-loom made in India.

Prizes of Rs. 100 and Rs. 75 and Rs. 50 will be awarded to looms which do best in the following competitions.—

1. Looms to weave cloth one yard wide with 20s;
2. Do from 45" to 54" wide with 60s;
3. Do do using for warp and weft 100s;
4. Looms to weave Madras handkerchiefs with 40s for both warp and weft;
5. Do fine handkerchiefs with 60s in the warp and 40s in the weft.

Section III.—(Warp and weft to be as in Section I).

Imported hand-loom may be entered for any of the competitions under Section II but they will be judged separately and if any looms are deemed of sufficient merit to justify the encouragement of their use in India, gold and silver medals will be placed at the disposal of the Judges to be awarded to such.

Looms may be entered for any one or all of the classes of the competition, but only one medal will be awarded to each type of loom and the Judges will be instructed to make no awards unless, in their opinion, the looms can be confidently recommended for use among the weavers of India.

General.

Any number of looms of the same make may be entered for any competition not only one prize will be awarded in each competition to one particular make of loom. Special weavers' prizes of Rs. 25 each will be awarded to the weavers themselves. Three such prizes will be awarded in each competition by the Judges who will only take into account the skill and dexterity of the weaver independently of the merits of the loom.

Successful competitors in Sections 1 and 2 may, if they prefer it, receive gold or silver medals in lieu of money prizes.

Intending competitors should send their looms so as to reach the Secretaries (School of Arts) before the first February 1908.

The workmen should report themselves to the Secretaries at the School of Arts at least two days before the date of competition. The exhibitors will have to make their own arrangements, at their own cost to setting up their looms.

Competitors entering a number of looms will, as far as space permits, be allowed to make arrangements for winding pirns on the School of Arts premises.

K. KRISHNASAMI ROW,
President.

G. SUBRAMANIA IYER,
D. V. HANUMANTHA ROW,
Honorary Secretaries.

ALL-INDIA COMPETITION OF HAND-LOOMS.**FORM OF APPLICATION FOR INTENDING COMPETITORS**

Name of applicant _____
 Residence _____
 Section of competition _____
 Class of section _____
 Number of looms entered _____
 Names of weavers who will work the looms _____
 Description of loom _____
 Selling price of loom _____
 Length of warp entered for competition _____
 No. of ends per inch _____
 Actual counts of yarn used in warp and in weft _____

Statement showing the monthly wages for the half-year ending 31st December 1907.

Principal places in the district	For an able-bodied agricultural labourer per mensem	For a syce or horse-keeper per mensem	(a) For a common mason per mensem	(b) For an ordinary carpenter per mensem	(c) For an ordinary blacksmith per mensem
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Bangalore	12 0 0	8 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0
Kolar	7 8 0	9 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0
	to	to	to	to	to
	10 0 0	10 0 0	30 0 0	30 0 0	30 0 0
Tumkur	6 0 0	6 0 0	30 0 0	15 0 0	22 8 0
Mysore	7 0 0	10 0 0	20 0 0	30 0 0	22 8 0
Hassan	3 12 0	7 0 0	22 8 0	26 4 0	22 8 0
	to		to		
	7 8 0		30 0 0		
Shimoga	7 0 0	8 0 0	12 8 0	8 0 0	7 0 0
	to	to	to	to	to
	12 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	12 0 0	12 0 0
Chikmagalur	7 8 0	7 8 0	22 8 0	22 8 0	22 8 0
Koppa (Coffee Malnad tract)	9 6 0	15 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
Chitaldrug	6 0 0	10 0 0	22 8 0	22 8 0	30 0 0
Davangere	5 0 0	9 0 0	22 8 0	22 8 0	30 0 0

(a) For a superior mason—Rs. 30 to 60 in Mysore, Rs. 25 to 30 in Koppa, Rs. 20 to 45 in Shimoga, Rs. 22-8-0 to 30 in Kadur, Rs. 22 to 30 in Chitaldrug and Rs. 15 to 22-8-0 in Bangalore.

(b) For a skilled carpenter—Rs. 30 to 45 in Mysore, Rs. 30 and upwards in Koppa, Rs. 22-8-0 to 30 in Kadur, Rs. 22 to 30 in Chitaldrug, Rs. 15 to 22-8-0 in Bangalore and Rs. 15 to 30 in Shimoga.

(c) For a superior blacksmith—Rs. 25 to 35 in Mysore, Rs. 25 to 30 in Koppa, Rs. 22-8-0 to 30 in Kadur, Rs. 22 to 30 in Chitaldrug, Rs. 15 to 22-8-0 in Bangalore and Rs. 15 to 20 in Shimoga.

B. RAMASWAMAIYA,

Asst. Comr. in charge, Rev. Comr.'s Office.